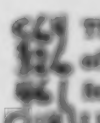
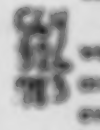
/118 cont./

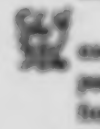
/footnote 5 cont./ plained by the fact that a few El Lembun blacksmiths also live among the Mawai blacksmiths. They speak their own dialect, which, of course, is unintelligible to the non-blacksmith El mawai ("ordinary Mawai," as Hollis designates them), who, indeed, scarcely come in contact with them.



The opinion of many a European, that the /119/ relative diligence of the blacksmith might have brought to him the wares of that type from the non-blacksmiths not inclined to work, is also a rude error. I have become acquainted with a large number of El Mawaie who for about two decades have not laid a hammer in their hands and very many who have not even made an attempt to learn the trade, but rather live entirely like other Mawai. All these, however, were despised exactly the same as their forging fellow countrymen.



Like the blacksmiths themselves, the products of their art, the weapons and utensils made by them, are regarded as unclean. In order to take the uncleanness from them, the Mawai rubs with his every new object fetched from the blacksmith's shop, as well as his hands which have touched the still unclean object.



Even the reputation that a few sorcerers enjoy, on account of the excellence of their products changes nothing in their low social position. The most famous of the sorcerer, old left-handed Bigawa from Ol Bengga, an artist to his field, is just as despised as any other blacksmith. The Ol Bengga people, however, jealously see to it that he does not also work for workers of any other province or even for members of another people.

While the other trades, tied to the presence of good pastures, are always moved with the disappearance of the latter, the blacksmith trade records for a long time in the same localities. The el kemeng have only very little livestock, but for their work they need charcoal and ferruginous coal. They establish their homes where both are to be found nearby. The workshop (el gugwat) is built close to the brook, 3 meters of a grass roof resting on six to eight posts. In the center lies the hearth (el pindarkwat). The smith carries his tools as well as his